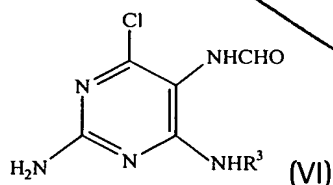


82  
43  
cont  
comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



wherein R<sup>3</sup> is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

#### REMARKS

Claims 9, 18, and 22 have been amended for clarification. Support for the amendment is provided at page 10 of the specification and Example 8. Claims 9 and 18 – 22 are currently pending.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is ready for examination on the merits. An early consideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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